

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /030 W

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R 301447Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8408

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 7804

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, LI

SUBJ: RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE INVESTIG-
ATING MESURADO C-401 CRASH

REF: A) STATE 290500, B) MONROVIA 6221, C) MONROVIA 5619

1. BELIEVING GOL MIGHT BE OVERWHELMED BY COSTS OF RECOVERY
OPERATION OUTLINED REF A, EMBASSY REQUESTED US MILITARY MISSION
EXPLORE ALTERNATE MILITARY RESOURCES. USMM REQUESTED ASSISTANCE
FROM EUCOM (THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS, INFO SECSTATE), WHICH CAME
UP WITH FEASIBLE PACKAGE WHICH WOULD COST GOL IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF
DOLS EIGHT THOUSAND.

2. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY RESPONDED TO GOL REQUEST BY NOTE DATED
DECEMBER 24, EXPLAINING SITUATION AND STATING THAT QTE AS
PART OF HIS NORMAL RESPONSIBILITIES COLONEL ALLEN BUCKNER, CHIEF
OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY MISSION TO LIBERIA, WILL BE IN
TOUCH WITH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF
LIBERIA TO EXPLAIN THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL. UNQTE.
EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT PLACING THIS MILITARY ASSISTANCE CONTEXT
BEST RECOURSE. USMM CHIEF BRIEFED PRESIDENT ON PROPOSAL AND
PRESIDENT READILY AGREED. DIVING TEAM EXPECTED ARRIVE
THIS WEEKEND, AND SEARCH OPERATIONS SHOULD BE IN PROGRESS
NEXT WEEK.

3. COMMENT: GOL (INCLUDING PRESIDENT) SEEMS PLEASED WITH
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USG EFFORTS, BUT GOL REACTION TO RESULTS OF SEARCH AND

SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION (IF ENGINE FOUND) REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IF ENGINE FOUND, GOL WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOVERY AND DISPOSITION. IF ASKED, WE PROPOSE RECOMMEND THAT GOL HAVE THIRD PARTY (I.E. OTHER COUNTRY) ANALYZE ENGINE. HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT THEY WILL ONCE AGAIN COME TO US FOR ASSISTANCE AND WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ASK NTSB, CESSNA, TELEDYNE CONTINENTAL AND/OR OTHERS IN US TO ASSIST. END COMMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE THIS SENSITIVE MATTER WILL BE ON EVERYONE'S MINDS FOR NEXT LITTLE WHILE, WE AGAIN REQUEST INFORMATION PILOT AUTOPSY REQUESTED REFS B AND C SOONEST. ALSO REQUEST GUIDANCE AND COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE.
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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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